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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,391	02/21/2001	Hiroyasu Fujiwara	826.1680/JDH	5413

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EXAMINER

LY, ANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2162

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/788,391

Applicant(s)

FUJIWARA, HIROYASU

Examiner

Anh Ly

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is response to Applicant's response to after final rejection filed on 04/25/2005.
2. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,623,658 issued to Kiuchi et al. (hereinafter Kiuchi).

With respect to claim 1, Kiuchi teaches a to-be-totalized information storage unit storing detail data as information to be totalized (totalization file storing information to be totalized: see fig. 1, items 11 and 12, col. 4, lines 55-67);

a hierarchical information storage unit having information used in totalizing the information to be totalized (structure file storing totalization hierarchy structure corresponding to totalizing levels (fig. 1, items 5 & 6, col. 4, lines 22-35);

Art Unit: 2162

a computing unit totalizing the detail data as information stored in the to-be-totalized information storage unit according to the one of the structures having hierarchical information stored in the hierarchical information storage unit (totalized result of totalization record is computed based on the totalized record in the hierarchical structure according totalization level (abstract, col. 1, lines 60-67 and col. 2, lines 1-16 and col. 3, lines 45-55); and

wherein said totalizing information can be displayed very readily in a form each individual user demands independently of data contents and regardless of a presence or absence of classification information for totalization (the totalizing information is displayed via display unit as shown in fig. 1, item 3; also see figs. 3, and 5A-5C).

With respect to claim 2, Kiuchi teaches comprising a display control unit controlling display of totalization results for information at an arbitrary hierarchical level in the hierarchical level hierarchical level in the hierarchical information and, if necessary, information at a hierarchical level lower than the arbitrary level or totalization results for information at the lower hierarchical level (abstract, col. 5, lines 35-58, col. 7, lines 35-50 and col. 8, lines 28-50 and totalization definition table for defining and controlling the hierarchical level or totalization results).

With respect to claim 3, Kiuchi teaches wherein the display control unit controls display of information at an even lower hierarchical level or totalization results for information at the even lower hierarchical level (totalization results: abstract, col. 5, lines 35-58, col. 7, lines 35-50 and col. 8, lines 28-50).

With respect to claim 4, Kiuchi teaches wherein the to-be-totalized information are classified into a plurality of groups, the hierarchical information storage unit stores hierarchical information about the plurality of groups, and the computing unit totalizes information stored in the to-be-totalized information storage unit on the basis of hierarchical information about any one of the groups (classification based on the group or product with the ID code: see figs 12, 15-19).

Claim 5 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a computer readable recording medium rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

With respect to claim 6, Kiuchi teaches information storage storing information to be totalized (totalization file storing information to be totalized: see fig. 1, items 11 and 12, col. 4, lines 55-67);

totalization hierarchical information storage storing hierarchical information defining a totalization hierarchy allowing totalizing of the information to be totalized even when classification information is unavailable for user in totalizing the information to be totalized (fig. 1, items 5 & 6, col. 4, lines 22-35, and classification based on the group or product with the ID code: see figs 12, 15-19); and

a computing unit totalizing the information stored in the information storage according to the hierarchical information stored in the hierarchical information storage (abstract, col. 1, lines 60-67 and col. 2, lines 1-16 and col. 3, lines 45-55; also the totalizing information is displayed via display unit as shown in fig. 1, item 3; also see figs, 3, and 5A-5C).

Art Unit: 2162

5. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,623,658 issued to Kiuchi et al. (hereinafter Kiuchi) in view of US Patent No. 6,397,221 issued to Greef et al. (hereinafter Greef).

With respect to claim 7, Kiuchi teaches storing data to be totaled (totalization file storing information to be totalized: see fig. 1, items 11 and 12, col. 4, lines 55-67);

allowing a user to select one of the hierarchies (a user can easily totalize data of hierarchical structure according to a totalizing level: col. 2, lines 5-18); and

totaling the data responsive to the hierarchy selected (abstract, col. 5, lines 35-58, col. 7, lines 35-50 and col. 8, lines 28-50).

Kiuchi teaches storing the to-be-totalized data, totalized data is stored in a hierarchical structure corresponding to the totalizing level and the totalization information in the hierarchical structure to be displayed to user, who can easily to select to level or desired information to be display according to totalizing level, via a display unit (see fig. 1). Kiuchi does not clearly teach creating at least plural hierarchies linking the data according to plural users hierarchy specifications associated with the plural users data requirements.

However, Greef teaches displaying information over a plurality of users computer system network (see fig. 1). The display information includes step s for enabling users to browser data to assess what changes to the existing hierarchical structure (see fig. 8, col. 15, lines 38-67 and col. 16, lines 1-10).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kiuchi with the teachings

Art Unit: 2162

of Greef, wherein the data or information storing in hierarchical structure provided therein (Kiuch's figs, 3, 4), would incorporate the user of displaying hierarchical information and enabling the users of selection/controlling the specified hierarchical information in the structure to be displayed or viewed, in the same conventional manner as described by Greef (fig. 8, col. 15, lines 38-67). The motivation being to enable the user to select the desired information to be displayed according to totalizing level as data stored in a hierarchical structure.


With respect to claim 8, teaches wherein the hierarchy has levels and the user is allowed to select a level within the hierarchy and the total for that level in the hierarchy is produced (a user can easily totalize data of hierarchical structure according to a totalizing level: col. 2, lines 5-18).


Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (571) 272-4039 or via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV or fax to (571) 273-4039. The examiner can normally be reached on TUESDAY – THURSDAY from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on (571) 272-4107 or Primary Examiner Jean Corrielus (571) 272-4032.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or faxed to: Central Fax Center (703) 872-9306

ANH LY 
May 16th, 2005


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER